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Docket No.: 80054(302721)
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Koji Watanabe et al.

Application No.: 10/589,822

Confirmation No.: 2431

Filed: August 17, 2006

Art Unit: 2821

For: DISCHARGE LAMP BALLAST AND
PROJECTOR

Examiner: T. X. Le

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Madam:

In response to the Office Action dated December 23, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections discussed below.

1. Claims 1, 8-9 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,362,575 to Chang et al. (hereafter "Chang et al.").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Chang et al. discloses a method and apparatus for regulating the lamp output voltage in a multiple (parallel) discharge lamp fixture irrespective of the number of operating lamps and based upon monitoring of the lamp filament current. A modification thereof provides constant and equal currents in the discharge lamps irrespective of the number of operating lamps.

First it should be noted that the lamp (R1p) in Chang et al. is a fluorescent lamp (column 1, line 58 and column 7, lines 15-16) and is different from the high intensity discharge lamp recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Second, the Examiner has specifically urged that column 9, lines 19-38 and FIG. 4(c) disclose: